Mid-term progress - Indicator 5
National regulations / legislation to support access to assistive devices

Overview
Enhancing autonomy regardless of an older person’s level of capacity can be achieved by giving older adults access to appropriate assistive devices/products, including walking sticks, rollators, wheelchairs, hearing aids, spectacles, among others. High quality data indicates that most older people need two or more products as they age, especially adults from age 80. The adoption of national regulations or legislation on access to assistive devices/products (including those from the WHO Priority Assistive Products List) can ensure that these are available, affordable and appropriate to older people’s needs.

Progress in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>AFRO</th>
<th>AMRO</th>
<th>EMRO</th>
<th>EURO</th>
<th>SEARO</th>
<th>WPRO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of countries reporting national regulations / legislation to support access to assistive devices</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress in Pictures

Number of countries with regulations to support access to assistive devices

12 This percentage reflects the total number of countries with national regulations to support access to assistive devices out of the 194 Member States of the World Health Organization. In collaboration with WHO Regional Offices, data from 138 of the 194 Member States was collected by March 2018. Given that data is missing from 56 countries, the global percentage of countries with national regulations may be even higher.

13 These percentages reflect the total number of countries with national regulations to support access to assistive devices out of the total number of Member States in the region. These percentages do not include information on countries that don’t have regulations or legislation at national level but do have such regulations or legislation at sub-national level. This was the case for two countries in AMRO (Canada and Colombia), and one country in WPRO (Viet Nam).

14 The methodology used by the EURO Regional Office to inform the 10 progress indicators did not allow for the completion of this indicator.